

Dear State of Connecticut,

My name is James Inman. I am a 15 year old student that is currently attending Torrington High School. In this letter, I would like to detail the numerous ways that the Youth Service Bureau has supported myself and my family over the past two years. Beginning last year, in June of 2016, I was first offered the opportunity to work for various organizations in my area. Although I had never worked officially prior in my life, I eagerly accepted this rare occasion, understanding the benefits it would bring. That summer, I spent much of my time working for LARC, the Litchfield Association for Retarded Citizens. During this period, I came to various realizations about both the workplace and those around me. As I performed tasks such as cataloging data, organizing and cleaning equipment, and helping the mentally retarded, I grew as both a worker and as a member of society. At the start of my experience with LARC, I was largely unfamiliar with common practices and behaviors within the workplace. As I continued to work I came to understand more things about responsibility and the value of work. I can honestly say that over that summer, I matured and learned, developing me as a better member of society. In addition, the opportunity to earn money for myself and my family has made a significant impact on my life. As the son of a single, senior, mother, my family has never had any abundance of wealth. Being given the chance to earn money not only relieves some of the financial pressures we endure, but also allows me to purchase luxuries which I would otherwise not be able to afford. That summer, I was able to attend a summer camp with many of friends, partially through money earned at my new job. Some of this money also went to daily necessities, such as food, car repairs, and clothing. In this way, my job served to save my family hundreds of dollars, a much needed support. This year, I again chose the opportunity to work for an organization in Torrington. Rather than LARC, I was given the chance to work at CAFTA, the Connecticut Academy for the Arts. Serving as an intern, I was further exposed to practices of the workplace. Perhaps my favorite aspect of working here is the people that I am surrounded by. Directors Teresa and John Sullivan constantly support me throughout my work, teaching and mentoring me about what I must do. Both of these wonderful programs have positively influenced my life in a variety of ways. I sincerely hope that the Youth Service Bureau continues to operate like it has thus far, for the aid of both myself and other youths throughout Connecticut. As someone who has been positively impacted by this program for nearly a year, I wish only for it to progress and develop. I hope that the State of Connecticut will come to such a decision, choosing to continue the program.

Sincerely,
James Inman